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Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000800140034-2

15 March 1974

Note for EWP:
Under Secretaries Committee Meeting on LOS
19 March 1974

SUBJECT: State of Conflict Within the LOS Task Force

1. On this subject, I have two points to add to my memo of 12 March, "NSC Law of the Sea (LOS) Task Force Status Report" (attached)

a. Probably the fundamental split is best put as follows:

Except for Treasury, CIEP and OMB, everyone is of the opinion that the policy decision was taken long ago at the highest level to go to Caracas and to seek to negotiate a comprehensive LOS regime, or to make major progress toward that objective. No one at this late date -- except Treasury, CIEP, and OMB -- is of a mind to debate the merits of that decision or to seek a change in it.

b. At the NIO-level meeting Tuesday, 12 March, the CIEP people stated that the general paper that [] is preparing is responsive to their request. Foster Collins called in with same statement for Treasury.

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